

Mr. Joseph S. Geller, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-013 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING 2026 ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP MS. KAREN LISLEY LEIVA

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

On January 28, 2025, Ms. Karen Leiva was named the 2026 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Rookie Teacher of the Year Runner-Up. As a teacher at North Beach Elementary, Ms. Karen Leiva has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her students, embracing challenges and continuously striving to create an inclusive and inspiring classroom experience.

Ms. Leiva's journey in education began at a young age. She grew up in a Christian environment that taught her the value of helping others. She taught children in Sunday School and volunteered to feed people in need. She carried these early lessons with her to Bogota, Colombia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Bilingual Education and gained valuable experience working with students with diverse needs.

Her passion for supporting exceptional students led her to further her studies in the United States, where she completed a Professional Program in English Learner Pedagogy at UC Berkeley with a minor in Exceptional Student Education. She gained hands-on experience working with students of various needs, including down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and ADHD.

After relocating to Miami during the pandemic, Ms. Leiva earned teaching certifications in Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education, and Spanish, along with endorsements in Reading and ESOL. She has since made a remarkable impact on her students at North Beach Elementary, where she fosters a nurturing and engaging learning environment for all students.

This resolution honors and praises Ms. Karen Leiva as the 2026 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Rookie Teacher of the Year Runner-Up. Her dedication and passion will have a lasting influence on her students, fostering a lifelong love of learning.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. JOSEPH GELLER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Karen Leiva, 2026 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Rookie Teacher of the Year Runner-Up

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-013
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING KAREN
LEIVA, 2026 FRANCISCO R. WALKER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ROOKIE TEACHER OF
THE YEAR RUNNER-UP**

WHEREAS, On January 28, 2025, Ms. Karen Leiva was named the 2026 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Rookie Teacher of the Year Runner-Up. As a teacher at North Beach Elementary, Ms. Karen Leiva has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her students, embracing challenges and continuously striving to create an inclusive and inspiring classroom experience; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Leiva's journey in education began at a young age. She grew up in a Christian environment that taught her the value of helping others. She taught children in Sunday School and volunteered to feed people in need. She carried these early lessons with her to Bogota, Colombia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Bilingual Education and gained valuable experience working with students with diverse needs; and

WHEREAS, Her passion for supporting exceptional students led her to further her studies in the United States, where she completed a Professional Program in English Learner Pedagogy at UC Berkeley with a minor in Exceptional Student Education. She gained hands-on experience working with students of various needs, including down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and ADHD; and

WHEREAS, After relocating to Miami during the pandemic, Ms. Leiva earned teaching certifications in Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education, and Spanish, along with endorsements in Reading and ESOL. She has since made a remarkable impact on her students at North Beach Elementary, where she fosters a nurturing and engaging learning environment for all students.

WHEREAS, This resolution honors and praises Ms. Karen Leiva as the 2026 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Rookie Teacher of the Year Runner-Up. Her dedication and passion will have a lasting influence on her students, fostering a lifelong love of learning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-013 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Karen Leiva, 2026 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Rookie Teacher of the Year Runner-Up.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this nineteenth day of March, A.D. 2025

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary